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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.]

ENDLESS CHAIN LETTERS

DEAR EDITOR: A friend of mine who is a nurse recently came to me to ask what one should do when they received a chain letter asking them to send a number of cancelled postage stamps to some address, and also to write a certain number of letters to their friends and make the same request of them. The letters claim that if a certain number of stamps are received some hospital will be the benefactor. I understand that some questions have been asked through your columns about this matter. I beg to inform you that should you care to do so you will find in * * * the Official Postal Guide for July * * * an official statement in regard to this matter. It is evident that many nurses are being burdened with these requests, and I assume that possibly you would be glad to clear the matter up for them.

L. L. CAMPBELL, Postmaster.

United States Post Office,
Northampton, Mass.

[This question of what to do with endless chain letters and of the value of cancelled stamps was brought up by a correspondent in the JOURNAL for January of this year. The Postal Guide, to which the Northampton postmaster so kindly refers us, states that this particular endless chain letter was started ten years ago with the request that the stamps be sent to a certain person at Mills Street, in a town in Australia. By a mistake, some branch of the chain began to send letters to a Miss Mills, The Carleton, Philadelphia. There is no Miss Mills at that address and all such letters are sent to the Dead Letter Office and destroyed. Efforts are being made by the Australian authorities to encourage correspondents to break the chain and they should have the co-operation of all who receive such letters, who can best do so by destroying the letter received. It may be said of endless chain letters in general that they are very rarely used for purposes which we should wish to aid. Twenty-five years ago, when the idea was first conceived, there were a great many in circulation for good causes, but those who started them soon found that they passed beyond their control and that they became a nuisance. We think any nurse who receives any such letter would be doing the public a service by refusing to pass it on, regardless of the threat which some of them contain, which should be enough to condemn them.—Ed.]

THE EIGHT-HOUR SYSTEM

DEAR EDITOR: In reading the August number of the JOURNAL I was sorry to see the eight-hour system mentioned again, and with such applause, by delegates and nurses present. To me such a suggestion takes away the refinement